

MURIESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 FEBRUARY 2015
held at Williamston Primary School at 7 pm
web: <http://murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk>

1. Present:

Chris Dryden, Kim Vance, Ron Skirving, Ian Brown, Davidson McQuarrie, Tania Armstrong, David Cooper, Carol Hallesy, Matthew Hallesy, Alex Hendry, June Keddie, Nick Lansdell, Frank Mustard; Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick; Superintendent Kevin Kerr

Chris Dryden assumed Chair tonight as Arthur Marris was unable to attend.

Apologies: Arthur Marris, Lorna Cooper; Councillor John Muir; PC Alan James

Guests: Mrs. Simone Gupta of Moriston Drive Residents Association

2. Minutes of the Meeting on 8 January 2015:

Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting on 8 January was proposed by Frank Mustard and seconded by Tania Armstrong. Carried.

3. Matters Arising:

None.

4. Finances:

Ron Skirving reported that the account balance is £871.03 after deduction printing costs for the planning questionnaires and the direct debit of £35 to the Information Commissioner's Office.

5. Community Policing:

A written report was circulated at the meeting.

6. Councillor's Report:

Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick gave a report.

Major drainage work has been carried out on the footpath leading from Williamston School to the A71 bridge.

Problems with gritting of the 'safe routes to school' have been resolved. This was due to operator error. Work on the replacing the roof of Murieston Village Hall has now been completed.

The electrification of the Shotts line will entail the upgrade of the rail infrastructure from Kirknewton westwards. Two road bridges will have to be raised in Murieston to provide headroom for the power cables; the bridge at Murieston Road at Bellsquarry Road South and the bridge at Brucefield Park West. No date has been agreed yet to install the proposed pedestrian refuge on Murieston Road beside the new Cala estate, Murieston Gait (which has street address West Cairn View).

The Council Roads Service have told Network Rail that both bridges cannot be closed at the same time for the upgrade work. A public consultation will be organised before the upgrade work starts.

Councillor Fitzpatrick's motion to Council to ask for the Scottish Government to impose a national moratorium on shale oil extraction by hydraulic fracturing i.e. fracking was carried by the Council. The Scottish Government announced a national moratorium two weeks afterwards.

The Council is to consult with the West Lothian taxi and private hire groups on safeguards for women hirers.

The Council is pressing Amey to whitenline the M8 and junctions, west of Livingston.

There will be major roadworks with lane closures this month on the M8 at Junction 4 Whitburn.

Whitenlining has been carried out on Murieston Road at Murieston Wood.

The footpath under the rail bridge on Murieston Road will be installed later this year.

Carol Hallesy questioned the Council's policy on the informal memorial which is beside Cambridge Pond.

Kim Vance observed that a resident had been tipping garden refuse in land behind Murieston Drive.

7. Murieston Environmental Group (MEG) - <http://meg.btck.co.uk> :

Kim Vance reported.

The litter pick at Cambridge Pond on Saturday 17 January was cancelled due to snow.

The next volunteer day is this Saturday.

Renovation work on the stairs beside the 'bandstand' on Murieston Trail is now completed. MEG is committed to fund the upgrade of the top path and has received quotes. Benches will be installed. A decision on proceeding with the work will be made at the next MEG meeting. The next MEG meeting will be next Thursday at the Cricket Club.

8. Murieston Local History Group :

Carol Hallesy spoke about setting up a local history group. Carol and Mrs. Joyce Morrison are keen to set up a group to research the history of the area.

Six residents have indicated they are interested in joining the group.

Carol extended an invitation to anyone interested in local history to join the group and would appreciate suggestions on suitable speakers.

9. Planning Consent to build one house in Murieston Valley beside Moriston Drive (0264/FUL/14):

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting before this item was discussed and returned afterwards.

The meeting debated with Mrs. Simone Gupta what further action was appropriate.

10. Windfarms:

Ian Brown reported that planning permission has been refused for the Camilty Windfarm.

11. Community Website - murieston.communitycouncil.org.uk

Ron Skirving reported.

There have been 456 visits to the new website with 75% engaging with the website.

Ron can include a page covering the local area,

Ron will ask correspondents who have provided email addresses whether they want to receive MCC newsletters.

12. Local Development Plan Consultation – Questionnaire for Residents:

Ian Brown reported.

653 responses to the questionnaire have now been received to date.

13. Community Allotments:

Ian Brown reported to the meeting about the proposed community allotment and garden scheme on meadow land behind Murieston Road and beside Murieston House.

Williamston and St. Ninian's Primaries are participating. Considerations are still at the outline stage.

The Council is being asked to test for contamination.

An outdoor classroom is planned as part of the overall scheme.

The site would involve a number of community garden initiatives and growing areas. The site would be fenced and hedged.

The road is owned by the Council from Murieston Road to the bridge over Murieston Water.

A letter has been addressed to the Community Council objecting to the proposal, which was circulated at the meeting. It was suggested that land beside Murieston Village Hall would be more suitable as an alternative location for a community garden as it is closer to the schools.

Kim Vance pointed out that MEG needs to be aware of the plans as they are involved with work on paths and neighbouring environment.

14. Single Outcome Agreement:

No further reports.

15. Local Development Plan:

The Main Issues Report will be considered by the Development Scrutiny Committee in May.

16. West Lothian Association of Community Councils (WLACC):

At the meeting in January there were no nominations for the vacant position of Chair and accordingly the WLACC is now disbanded.

17. Planning Applications:

Ian Brown reported. No significant change since the last meeting.

18. Correspondence:

None.

19. Any Other Business:

Ron Skirving reported that fly tipping was taking place on the path behind Bankton Avenue. A

christmas tree and garden rubbish was tipped there recently.

Chris Dryden highlighted the problem of cars speeding between Easter Bankton and Bankton Retail Centre.

Work is due to take place between Adambrae Roundabout and Dedridge West. Electronic warning signs will warn motorists. Road markings will be altered as part of the redesign of the road layout.

The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday, 12 March 2015 at 7 pm in the Staff Room at Williamston Primary School